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Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
March 18, 1942

Brothers engaged in work with Little Brothers, and the interest being shown in the work. Mrs. Criswell reported a total of 359 boys given service during the month.

Big Brothers Hold Session

Probation Officer Reviews Work With Juveniles.

The monthly meeting of Big Brothers was held yesterday in the dining room of the First Christian Church. It was presided over by J. Finley Tucker, chairman of the Big Brother committee.

Principal speaker for the meeting was Probation Officer J. S. Lanier, who gave a brief summary of the work done by the Juvenile Court especially in its supervisory and after care of children coming before the court. The appropriations approved for the present budget year by the Board of County Commissioners and the Budget Commission totaled \$70,986.

Under this appropriation the court handled 1570 children during the past year and had an active probation load of 57 children per month, Lanier reported. For the children in the Parental Home for Girls, the Parental Homes for negro boys and girls, boarding and foster home care, and temporary care in the Children's Home Society there was a total of 12 children each month, he stated.

In addition to the work of care for children, Mr. Lanier showed that 184 parents were brought before the court for non-support of 319 children of the community with \$10,735 collected and paid to mothers or relatives caring for the children and \$1,753 paid back to the county treasury. The investment that the county is making for the care of underprivileged children is one in which every citizen may take pride and satisfaction, according to Mr. Lanier.

Special guests attending the luncheon were: P. M. Burroughs, chairman of the Budget Commission; Joe F. Hammond, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; Tom Marshall and Howard Beale, county commissioners, and Mrs. Downing Knight, member of the Board of Managers of the Parental Home.

Mrs. W. S. Criswell, assistant executive secretary and director of the Big Brother and Social Service Department, gave a report of the month's activity, the number of Big

Jackson, Miss., News
July 31, 1942

Watermelon Helps



It isn't too bad for the negro delinquents sent to the Hinds county penal farm; it just isn't any good. The state legislature last spring appropriated \$100,000 for a reformatory, such as the one at Columbia for white juvenile offenders. No steps toward the reformatory's construction or appointment of a governing board have been taken. Meanwhile, youthful negro lawbreakers serve the legally limited brief sentences on the farm, are dismissed before discipline there can make an impression upon their blithe anti-social attitudes, and until the next arrest places them back on the farm are meanwhile free to roam about Jackson and its environs, a menace to every home and citizen of Hinds county.

Solons Gave Juveniles \$100,000--Didn't They?

The richest district in the richest county in the state doesn't need to cultivate negro delinquents as a source of income. Yet, because of the original coming in regard to the \$100,000 appropriation for a state reformatory for negro delinquents, that is virtually what must continue at the Hinds penal farm. In the little house-breakers and petty thieves go, along with the road gangs, to the high-windowed cells of the square, stone structure, because there's no place

else to send them. They serve their short terms, or they are let loose, and pretty soon the same undisturbed grain or resentful flower appears just over the judge's desk again. Houses are robbed, bad checks passed, and men are foully murdered and hidden in a well.

That the young boys work, at the county farm, is not censured. It's exactly the corrective—occupational therapy, as it were, that would be employed at a reformatory, and the best thing for them. But that they should be committed to an institution for hardened criminals leads to interruptions through bailiffs and short sentences in desperately needed discipline, leads to repeated delinquencies and finally to state penitentiary candidates, a liability and menace to society.

While committals to a reformatory could be made long enough to rein in their untamed young spirits, legal limits for petty crimes of minors are placed on penal farm sentences. Even those sentences of a few months are broken by bailiffs with usually baleful results.

One would-be savior and, incidentally, employer put up bond for a house breaker, put him to work out in the country. The same evening the boy collected two house-break hauls on the way back to town.

Yet the money to remove these recurrent menaces to society, and in many cases return to society within a few years a citizen and an asset, that money for a reformatory was appropriated at the spring session of the legislature. The next step is appointment of a governing board by the governor. So far, as well as can be determined, not a foot has been lifted to take that step.

According to Dell Fairchild, superintendent of the Hinds county farm, the greatest virtue of the reformatory would be sustained discipline for delinquents at their most dangerous adolescent age. If there are any evil influences cast about between the diverse ages, however, he claims the tough little youngsters he gets, and gets back, can show their elder convicts plenty.

According to Supervisor Perry Luckett, a state reformatory for the negro delinquents would make possible the scrapping of the county penal farm, with a consequent reduction of almost 50 per cent in the cost of supporting the convicts. While upkeep at the farm costs \$1

a day, the sheriff can keep county lawbreakers in the county jail for 50 cents a day. Their man power would not be lost either, for the prisoners would still be obtainable from the jail for road work.

According to Jackson Chief of Police Joel Holden, "A child whether he is white or black should not be confined to prison with hardened criminals. I would like to see the reformatory on the old penitentiary grounds in Hinds County. Then build a reformatory because there's no place

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to do with perpetual offenders." Until "they" build a reformatory, Hinds county delinquents are well taken care of, temporarily—any care at all at the farm must be temporary. When Dell Fairchild came there, it was not so. Thirty-three inmates were sleeping on 13 beds, and the floor. A rest period in the day was unheard of, and it is interesting to wonder what the reaction of former superintendents would have been to the ice-cold watermelons passed around the morning I was there.

The food is wholesome—the inmates help see to that. In two hours and 40 minutes, Mr. Fairchild and the boys canned 175 cans of tomatoes. In the cannery and cold storage plant, meat and vegetables from the farm are kept.

The juveniles work only 8½ or 9 hours a day, and there's even a pond they can swim in. It's not a bad situation; better, in fact, than most of them come from. It might be easier to write a reform story if it were bad, if the punishment of French penal colonies and the fare of German concentration camps might be imputed to our county farm.

But it's not bad; it's just that it's not any good. The committal of negro delinquents to the Hinds county farm is a system perpetuating itself in a cycle of offenses, short criminal sentences, dismissal and offense. And one of the most dangerous classes in Jackson and Hinds county is freed to roam periodically over the countryside, breaking into houses, signing bad checks, committing, it may be, unspeakable murder.

The legislators saw that, appropriated \$100,000 to correct the practice. Why haven't "They" done something?

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO REFORMATORY BOARD IS COMPLETED

AUG 19 1942
Chairman A. H. Stone Of Tax
Commission On List

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 18.—Governor Johnson Tuesday reached into the ranks of men he said have never supported him, to complete his list of appointments to the newly created Board of Trustees of the negro juvenile reformatory.

Chairman A. H. Stone of the State Tax Commission completed the seven-member-board which will handle the program for erection of the reformatory on the old penitentiary grounds in Hinds County.

The Legislature voted \$80,000 for erection of the building and \$50,000 for its administration. Mrs. Horace Stansel, member of the Legislature from Sunflower County, authored the proposal. There is no reformatory for negro juveniles in Mississippi.

Plans call for use of material from the old insane hospital property in North Jackson for the building program, which will likely get under way as soon as the board meets to organize.

Members of the board previously named by Governor Johnson are L. O. Crosby, industrialist of Picayune; Aubrey Bell, attorney of Greenwood, and the following ex-officio members. The Governor; P. H. Eason, director of negro education in the state Department of Education; A. B. S. 1942, superintendent of the state penitentiary and the chairman of the state eleemosynary board.

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Charlotte, N. C. Observer
April 8, 1942

CITY QUARTERS FOR NEGRO BOYS ARE REJECTED

District Attorney Says Inspector Rules It Out.

MAY USE COUNTY JAIL

Ruling Does Not Apply to Other Portions Of South

Mint Street Quarters.

and girls with whom it must deal placed in the proper correctional institutions when their cases seem to demand any sort of punishment. The practice of putting juveniles in "jail" is frowned upon by local juvenile court authorities. Because of these facts the juvenile detention quarters often are completely unpopulated.

OPPOSES "JAIL" ATMOSPHERE. The general fault found with the quarters used for detention of male Negro juveniles of the Federal authorities was that cells are used. The use of cells gives the "jail" atmosphere to the quarters, and juveniles are supposed to be kept in rooms when they have to be locked up. Only in the one section of the juvenile building are cells used, it is understood.

Federal officials are said to plan to lodge male Negro delinquents in future in the main county jail. The only possible obstacle to this plan would be the regulation of State welfare authorities that juveniles must be lodged in buildings other than those used for the detention of adults.

Yesterday it was learned, however, that State institutional officials would be asked to investigate the possibility of lodging the Federal male Negro juveniles in the main jail where they will be segregated from the adult prisoners.

Lamar Caudle, Federal district attorney, yesterday said he had come to the conclusion that male Negro juvenile prisoners of Federal authorities would no longer be kept in the Mecklenburg juvenile detention quarters on South Mint street because an inspector of the Federal Bureau of Prisons had failed to approve the quarters as meeting the Federal requirements.

Plans are to use the Mecklenburg county jail on top of the courthouse for the Negro boys detained by Federal authorities, District Attorney Caudle said. The Federal inspector appeared to find nothing very badly wrong with the juvenile detention quarters used for white boys and girls, and for Negro girls.

The "thumbs down" ruling applied only to the quarters for Negro male juveniles, it was understood. Authorities explained that the ruling will have very little effect on the situation, anyhow, since very few Federal juveniles are cared for at the county detention quarters.

USED VERY LITTLE. The quarters are maintained largely for emergency detention of juveniles by local authorities. The policy of the juvenile court is to have boys

NORTH CAROLINA

By Albert Deutsch:

War Delinquency ... Not Yet Alarming in N. Y. C., But Experts Are Dis- turbed by Trend

DEC 15 1942

Here is the composite impression of the delinquency picture in New York City that I get from a shakedown of the expert testimony produced at the State Board of Social Welfare hearings Monday:

¶ The wartime increase in child delinquency here has not yet reached "alarming" proportions. But the outlook for the near future, judging by the general trend, is profoundly disturbing, unless action is quickly taken to strengthen and extend our preventive and corrective services.

¶ Children's Court statistics show an 11 per cent rise in cases for the first 11 months of 1942, as compared with last year's figure. Some witnesses tried to discount this rise by stating that juvenile delinquency still is less than it was a few years ago. They failed to note that any increase at all sharply reverses the steady downward trend of past years.

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¶ The rise in girl delinquency—24 per cent—is the gravest aspect of the problem. There has been a sharp increase in unmarried mothers between 13 and 16 since the war started. Offenses involving sex have been a large factor in the general rise. Girl gangs are springing up on the streets.

¶ There is a very marked increase in tension and restlessness among children, a factor not reflected in court statistics. Mrs. Richard Bernhard, chairman of the State Board of Social Welfare investigating committee, notes the same thing happening in all the up-state cities surveyed thus far. This phenomenon mirrors, in large measure, the increased tensions, uncertainties and anxieties of parents who worry about how the war will affect their families. Dr. Stanley P. Davies, executive director of the Community Service Society, says that his agency has observed a marked rise of child problems in families where the father has left for military service or war work in other cities.

¶ The school, where children spend most of their working hours, is a valuable center for preventing and correcting delinquency.

This powerful agency has long been neglected, as Dr. Caroline Zachry pointed out.

¶ The war has created no new problems of juvenile delinquency; it has aggravated those of long standing:

¶ Despite of the hue and cry about Negro "crime waves," the rate of increase in delinquency among Negroes has been lower than among whites, and in Manhattan it has actually decreased this past year. Economic betterment is the answer, as Lester Granger of the National Urban League observed.

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¶ Some experts are inclined to stress the moral factor to explain increased delinquency, others the economic factor. Dr. Robert W. Searle of the Greater New York Federation of Churches pointed out that the breakdown of international and political morality in recent years had confused the moral sense of man, permeating down to children. Welfare Commissioner Hodson said that delinquency was mainly caused by economic distress, and advocated a Beveridge plan for America. This reporter agrees with the views of both men.

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Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
May 3, 1942

TENNESSEE

NEGROES GRATEFUL

**Appreciate Law Creating Home
For Delinquent Children**

To The Commercial Appeal:

We want to take this means of expressing our sincere appreciation to the many friends of both races who were instrumental in securing the passage of the recent bill establishing a delinquent home for negro youth. The Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has had this as its major project for more than 20 years. Everything else has been subordinated to the delinquent home. Now that this has been accomplished we are able to release our energies in the direction of national defense. In fact, our program has already been attuned along this line. At a recent meeting of our Executive Board \$750 was voted to purchase defense bonds. Although this money was taken from our very meager treasury we were proud to do our share in this great struggle to preserve our national heritage.

Hundreds of white and negro citizens of Mississippi have cooperated with us in putting this program over.

Again we thank you for the interest that you have manifested in us and we feel sure that we shall continue to have your aid and assistance on any matters that may arise in the future.

R. O. HUBERT, President
B. L. JOHNSON,
Chairman Legislative Committee.
Prentiss, Miss.

32-1942

VIRGINIA

Hopewell, Va. News
April 14, 1942

Radford Fights Juvenile Delinquency With Program

SINCE publication of our editorial last Friday on how juvenile delinquency increases in war time and how it must be combatted, we have received No. 12 in the New Dominion Series of pamphlets, issued by the University of Virginia, entitled "Recreation Meets A Challenge", which tells the story of organized recreation in Radford, Virginia.

About three years ago the ninth grade pupils started a unit of work on "Improving Urban Culture", using their own community as material for study. Based on the juvenile delinquency program developed by a progressive Commonwealth's Attorney and a progressive City Judge, they drew up a recreation plan which was presented to the City Council.

Less than a year later the City Council passed an ordinance setting up a Recreation Commission, and appropriated funds to start building playgrounds and parks on a long range program and to hire a full-time recreation director. The program had hardly started when the coming of the huge Hercules plant suddenly jumped the population from 6,000 to 12,000.

With an increased appropriation from the City Council and with federal aid, the Recreation Commission has carried on a varied program which has reached all ages. As the booklet points out:

"Radford had learned that complete cooperation of all agencies is necessary for success and efficiency. As a result of such cooperation the city could point with justifiable pride to a three year period during which not one white juvenile delinquent had been added to its records. Also, for the twenty-one month period following the establishment of a park for Negroes, there had not been a single Negro juvenile in court."